

Appl. No. 10/800,914
Amdt. dated May 3, 2005
Reply to Office action of November 3, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Original): A cover for a socket of an electrical outlet, the cover comprising:

a substantially planar frame having an opening generally aligned with the socket of the electrical outlet;

a door shiftable between a blocking position generally blocking access to the opening and an open position generally permitting access to the opening;

a locking mechanism operable connected to the door, the locking mechanism movable between a locking position substantially preventing shifting of the door from the blocking position to the open position and an unlocking position permitting shifting of the door from the blocking position to the open position;

an actuator element of the locking mechanism movable in a shifting direction for movement of the locking mechanism from the locking position to the unlocking position, the shifting direction being generally perpendicular to the plane of the frame; and

a translation element of the locking mechanism movable in a translation direction for shifting of the door from the blocking position to the unblocking position, the translation direction being generally parallel to the plane of the frame.

Claim 2 (Original): A cover for a socket of an electrical outlet in accordance with claim 1, wherein the actuator element of the locking mechanism comprises a locking element engagable with a locking feature of the frame, whereby when the locking element engages the locking feature of the frame shifting of the door from the locking position to the unlocking position is substantially prevented.

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Claim 3 (Original): A cover for a socket of an electrical outlet in accordance with claim 2, wherein the locking element is biased into engagement with the locking feature by a biasing element.

Claim 4 (Original): A cover for a socket of an electrical outlet in accordance with claim 3, wherein the biasing element comprises an arm having an end attached to the door and another end having the locking element attached thereto.

Claim 5 (Original): A cover for a socket of an electrical outlet in accordance with claim 4, wherein the arm is integrally formed with the door and the locking element is integrally formed with the arm.

Claim 6 (Original): A cover for a socket of an electrical outlet in accordance with claim 5, wherein the locking feature comprises an aperture formed in the frame.

Claim 7 (Original): A cover for a socket of an electrical outlet in accordance with claim 6, wherein a spring member biases the door toward the blocking position.

Claim 8 (Original): A cover for a socket of an electrical outlet in accordance with claim 7, wherein the spring member has a portion attached to the door and another portion attached to the frame.

Claim 9 (Original): A cover for a socket of an electrical outlet in accordance with claim 8, wherein the frame includes side facing away from the electrical outlet and a side facing toward the electrical outer, the frame having a slot positioned between the sides, the translation element accessible through the slot and movable in the translation direction to shift the door between the blocking position and the unblocking position.

Claim 10 (Original): A cover for a socket of an electrical outlet in accordance with claim 9, wherein the translation element is attached to the arm.

Claim 11 (Original): A cover for a socket of an electrical outlet in accordance with claim 10, wherein the frame comprises an outer plate facing away from the electrical outlet and a backing plate positionable facing the electrical outlet, the door being positioned between the outer plate and the backing plate, the arm having a thicker region proximate the translation element to substantially prevent movement of the translation element in the shifting direction and a thinner region proximate the locking element to permit movement of the locking element in the shifting direction.

Claim 12 (Original): A cover for a socket of an electrical outlet in accordance with claim 1, wherein the frame includes two openings and a separate door is provided for each opening.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A cover for a socket of an electrical outlet, the cover comprising:

a substantially planar frame having at least one opening generally aligned with the socket of the electrical outlet;

at least one door shiftable between a blocking position generally blocking access to the opening and an open position generally permitting access to the opening;

locking means integral with the door and movable between a locking position substantially preventing shifting of the door from the blocking position to the open position and an unlocking position permitting shifting of the door from the blocking position to the open position,

actuator means movable in a shifting direction to move the locking means from the locking position to the unlocking position; and

translation means movable in a translation direction to shift the door from the blocking position to the unblocking position.

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Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A cover for a socket of an electrical outlet, the cover comprising:

a frame having an opening positioned to be alignable with the socket of the electrical outlet;

a door shiftable between a blocking position generally blocking access to the opening and an open position generally permitting access to the opening; and

a locking mechanism operable connected to the door, the locking mechanism movable between a locking position substantially preventing shifting of the door from the blocking position to the open position and an unlocking position permitting shifting of the door from the blocking position to the open position, the movement of the locking mechanism from the locking position to the unlocking position requiring disengagement of a locking element of the locking mechanism from a locking feature while generally simultaneously requiring translation of a translation element operably connected to the door to shift the door from the blocking position to an unblocking position, the translation element accessible via an opening separate from the opening positioned to be alignable with the socket of the electrical outlet.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): A cover for a socket of an electrical outlet in accordance with claim 14, wherein a spring member is operably connected to the frame and the door to bias the door to the blocking position.

Claim 16 (Original): A cover for a socket of an electrical outlet in accordance with claim 14, wherein the frame includes two openings and a separate door is provided for each opening.

Claim 17 (New): A cover for a socket of an electrical outlet in accordances with claim 14, wherein a door member is provided comprising the door and the locking element.

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Claim 18 (New): A cover for a socket of an electrical outlet in accordance with claim 17, wherein the door member further comprises the translation element.

Claim 19 (New): A cover for an electrical outlet in accordance with claim 13, wherein the translation means is integral with the door and locking means.

Claim 20 (New): A cover for a socket of an electrical outlet in accordance with claim 13, wherein the translation means includes a translation element accessible via an opening in the frame separate from the opening generally aligned with the socket.